**School of Communication and Mass Media**

**COM 29-225-02**

**Intercultural Communication, 3 Hours**

**Fall 2021**

**Instructor: John Katsion Email: johnkat@nwmisouri.edu**

**Office hrs.: M, W, F 8 – 9 am; 10 - 11am Office: Wells Hall 103**

**T, Th 10 - 11 am**

**Phone:** 660-562-1286

**Prerequisites:** None

**Textbook and supplementary materials:** Samovar, L. A., Porter, R.F., McDaniel, E.R. and Carolyn S. Roy. (2013) *Communication between Cultures.* 8th ed. Boston, MA: Wadsworth.

**Course description:** An analysis of how culture interacts with communication and an examination of issues and problems encountered when communicating across cultures.

**Student Learning Outcomes: Assessment methods:**

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| To illuminate students’ understanding of ways that culture shapes their perceptions  of self and others. | Cultural Self-Assessment; Intercultural Experience paper and presentation |
| To ignite students’ sense of appreciation for the  similarities and differences which exist between  and among peoples. | Intercultural Group Paper and Presentation |
| To engage students in the analysis of contemporary  events which illustrate how the multiplicity of  cultures create and sustains the human fabric  and experience through contention and co-operation. | Intercultural Movie Report; Intercultural Experience paper and presentation; Midterm and Final Exams |
| To educate students on the various means  by which diverse communities and organizations  live and work together. | Intercultural Experience paper and presentation; Intercultural Group Paper and Presentation |

**Instructional methods:** Learning takes place when the student actually applies the material to his or her own experience. Some of the instruction in this class will include lecture, but discussion is typically the most valuable tool in learning. Group exercises will also be included in this class.

**Graded course requirements:** Throughout the term, there will be several opportunities for the student to demonstrate competence regarding the material presented in class, and that which each student is responsible for in the text and outside readings. Therefore, there will be several opportunities for the professor to provide feedback to the student to help themselves monitor their progress. Each student’s final evaluation will be based on the following items:

Entry Tickets

At the beginning of each week on Tuesday, starting with Chapter 1, you must submit an “entry ticket” at the beginning of the class period. Your entry ticket lists three insights you gained from the reading, one practical application of the concepts you read, and a question you would like to see discussed in the class. This assignment is explained in more detail in the corresponding assignment page on CANVAS.

Cultural Self-Assessment Paper

This is your first assignment in this course and it is simply a paper to help you understand your cultural background and how it impacts your intercultural communication. In this essay you will reflect on your cultural history and write about how you perceive yourself through that lens. This is a 2 – 3-page double spaced essay.

Intercultural Movie Report

You are being assigned to watch a movie!  You can select a movie of your choice that you believe illustrates Intercultural Communication.  Watch the movie at your leisure and then, write a 2-4-page report.  A handout will be given out describing the particulars of this assignment.

In-Class Activities

In-class activities are intended to help you reflect on readings and/or lectures or videos and to facilitate discussions. Absence from class or failure to turn in an activity means forfeiture of 5 points for that particular activity

An Intercultural Experience: Paper and Presentation

In the first week of class you will pick a place or group to experience and reflect on. This place must be somewhere that you do not usually go, somewhere filled with people of a different background. It may be a religious organization, a campus organization, or a section of town that is very different than your own. You will write a journal reflecting on your experiences and connecting those experiences back to what we learned in class that week. You may not pick the same group as someone else in the class. The purpose of this assignment is to help you learn about a cultural system that is different from yours through reading and through interactions with members of that cultural group.  Write a 3-4-page reflective paper about the intercultural experience in which you have participated.  The paper should include:

1. A detailed description of the experience
2. A discussion of the history of the cultural group you interacted with, as well as the values and assumptions operating in the other cultural system
3. A discussion of how the other culture differs from your own and implications for future interactions
4. Attention to the context in which the interactions occurred and how that affected the communication, as well as the power positions of your own race/ethnicity/group compared with that of the culture you interacted with.
5. There must be 4 applications of concepts, skills and attitudes from the textbook. These are called textbook connections, and must include the page number a direct quote from the book.
6. Think of this paper as more of a story describing your experience than a normal research paper.

You will then give a 5 minute presentation on the other culture and your experience.

Exams

There will be two exams—a midterm and a final exam. Questions for the exams will be drawn from the textbook, lectures, other assigned readings and team presentations. It is your responsibility to read assigned materials and take notes on materials presented in class or posted on Northwest online.

Metaphoric presentation of a National Culture

This assignment is an opportunity to become a bit of an “expert” among your classmates regarding one foreign national culture. Although much of this course looks at “culture-general” concepts and theories – ones that can be applied across various cultures – this first assignment lets each of us delve into the uniqueness of a “culture-specific” metaphor – a concrete object or activity that “captures the essence” of *one* culture. After gaining a mental picture of what that other culture is like, you will share this understanding with your classmates. You can do this assignment with a partner you choose, or by yourself. You will sign up for one of the chapters from Martin Gannon’s book *Understanding Global Culture*. Once you’ve picked your chapter, please email me the chapter number and the culture-metaphor of that chapter. YOU CANNOT CHOOSE THE CHAPTER ON THE USA. The book will be available as an eBook through the library. Please look at the assignment page on CANVAS for more detail.

**Course Evaluation:**

Assignment Points

Cultural Self-Assessment 100

Intercultural Movie Report 100

Intercultural Experience 200

Entry Tickets 100

In-class Activities/Attendance 100

Midterm Exam 100

Final Exam 100

Metaphor Project 200

Total 1000

**Grading scale:** The grade will be determined on the following scale:

900-1000=A, 800-899=B, 700-799=C, 600-699=D, Below 600=F

**Course outline/major topics studied:**

1. Studying Intercultural Communication
2. Intercultural Communication: Building Blocks
3. History and Intercultural Communication
4. Identity and Intercultural Communication
5. Verbal Issues in Intercultural Communication
6. Nonverbal Communication Issues
7. Popular Culture and Intercultural Communication
8. Culture, Communication, and Conflict
9. Intercultural Relationships
10. Intercultural Communication and Family

**Note:** Course schedule is subject to change with instructor notification and students will be responsible for abiding by these changes.

**Attendance:** You are allowed to miss this class 4 times without penalty. Those 4 class periods cover EVRYTHING. It covers illness, sports, school-related functions, mental health days, arguments with my girlfriend, a bright sunny day, my car breaking down and any other reason you might miss class. Once you miss 4 classes, you will have 5 points deducted from the 100 points I give towards attendance in this class. So, on your 5th absence, you will be at 95 out of 100. On your 6th absence, you will be at 90 and so on. If you only miss 4 times, you will get the full 100 points. Again, these 4 absences count for those who are in a sport, band or some other school related activity. Make sure to plan ahead and use your absences wisely if you are involved in sports. Please refer to the university policy on attendance at <https://www.nwmissouri.edu/policies/academics/Attendance.pdf>

**Late work:** ***Late work will not be accepted in any situation involving unexcused absences*.** All absences are unexcused unless documented in writing and approved by instructor [e.g. hospitalization, death in family, approved university activity (advance instructor notification required for approved university activities)]. *I must have a copy of any written documentation in order to consider it as an excused absence.* An e-mail or phone message from you that simply informs me that you will be absent does not constitute an excused absence, although I will appreciate the courtesy. *I will not accept responsibility for any work that is* ***not*** *turned in to me by you* ***in person***, unless you confirm with me that I received it. In other words, if an assignment is due in class and for some reason you are not in class to turn it in, I will not be held responsible for it if you sent it through a friend or if you later put it in my mailbox or slide it under the door to my office, *unless you confirm with me in person that I received the assignment.*

**Final exams:**

If an emergency occurs that prevents the administration of a course scheduled final examination, the final course grades will be calculated based on the work in the course completed to that point in time and the faculty member’s considered judgment. Final exams will not be rescheduled, and a grade of “I” will not be given as a result of an institutional cancellation of a final examination. This final exam policy does not apply to online courses.

**Administrative drop:** An instructor may request the Office of the Registrar delete a student from a course roster if the student has not met the prerequisite for the course as stated in the catalog, or as a result of non-attendance in the course.

**Academic Administrative withdrawal:** When it is in the best interest of Northwest Missouri State University for a student to withdraw, a student will be given a W, put on administrative hold, and given notice that they are about to be withdrawn. This action will result in removal of all credits associated with courses that have yet to be completed in the semester in question and the student will be administratively withdrawn from the University. An Administrative Withdrawal does not affect the student’s grade point average. Please refer to Northwest Missouri State University’s Academic Administrative Withdrawal Policy at:

<https://www.nwmissouri.edu/policies/academics/Adding-Dropping-Withdrawals.pdf>

**University communications:** Students are expected to use their Northwest student email account for any electronic correspondence within the university. Students are also strongly advised to check their email and CatPAWS accounts on a regular basis.

**Academic integrity policy:** The students, faculty, and staff at Northwest endeavor to sustain an environment that values honesty in academic work, that acknowledges the authorized aid provided by and intellectual contributions of others, and that enables equitable student evaluation. Please refer to Northwest Missouri State University’s Academic Integrity Policy at <http://www.nwmissouri.edu/policies/academics/Academic-Integrity.pdf>

**Communication 225 Specific Policies regarding plagiarism (used with permission from the Department of Language, Literature, and Writing)**

Academic integrity is central to our mission as a university and your success as a student, and it is expected that you will read and become familiar with the Code of Academic Integrity in the *Undergraduate Academic Catalog* and *Northwest Student Handbook*. Academic integrity entails treating the work of others ethically and ethically representing your own work. Plagiarism is defined as using someone else’s language or ideas as your own without appropriately crediting the source, or to such an extent that the writing is no longer representative of your own abilities.

To avoid plagiarism, those who use words or ideas (including spoken, printed, electronically retrieved, or recorded sources) from another person's work must document the source.

**To document a direct quotation in APA style, writers must:**

1. Include quotation marks around the material or indent it within the text to indicate their use of the source;

2. Provide parenthetical notation indicating the date (required), page number (if available); and

3. Include the name of the author (if available) or the title (if no author is given) either in the introduction to the quotation or within the parenthetical citation.

**To document a direct quotation in an oral presentation, speakers must:**

1. Say the word "quote" to verbally replace written quotation marks; and

2. Include the name of the publication and date before or after the quotation; and

3. Outline oral presentations consistent with the above rules for written material.

Instead of quoting writers or speakers, you may paraphrase the facts and ideas of others by fully digesting the concepts, then stating them in your own words and sentence structure; but you must still credit the sources as in the above notes.

**Other forms of academic dishonesty include**

* Using a speech from another student from a previous course (both students are charged with academic dishonesty)
* Lying about an excuse for an absence
* Publishing exam questions on any public forum such as a website
* Sharing screenshots or photos of exam questions in any public forum such as a website
* Using published exam questions, screenshots, or photos of exam questions to complete an assessment
* Sharing passwords to midterm or final exams with students who are not present in the classroom

**Learning or Living Accommodations Request Process:** Northwest Missouri State University complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 [ADA] and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 [ADAAA]. If a student has a documented disability that qualifies under the ADA/ADAAA and requests accommodations, they should review the Accessibility and Accommodations webpage at [https://www.nwmissouri.edu/titleixequity/accessibility/index.htm](https://www.nwmissouri.edu/titleixequity/accessibility/index.htm%20) for guidance, including the accommodations application and supporting documentation requirements. Contact ada@nwmissouri.edu or 660.562.1873 for further assistance. For the university policy on disability accommodation refer to <http://www.nwmissouri.edu/policies/student/Disability-Accommodation.pdf>

**Non-discrimination and anti-harassment policy:** Northwest Missouri State University is committed to maintaining an environment for all faculty, staff, students, and third parties that is free of illegal discrimination and harassment. Please refer to the Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy at <https://www.nwmissouri.edu/TitleIXEquity/titlevi/>

**Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) policy:** Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (commonly known as the Buckley Amendment), is a federal law which provides that colleges and universities will maintain the confidentiality of student education records. Please refer to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Policy at <http://www.nwmissouri.edu/policies/academics/Family-Educational-Rights-and-Privacy-Act.pdf>

**COVID-19 Classroom Mitigation:** Northwest is committed to the health and safety of the University community. Face coverings are required for non-vaccinated students and faculty and are optional for those who are fully vaccinated. Should a non-vaccinated faculty member or student make close contact with a symptomatic, COVID-19 positive student, they will be asked to quarantine and not enter University facilities (unless otherwise instructed by University Wellness) or attend class until that quarantine period is over. Faculty will provide means for students missing class because of COVID-19 quarantine or isolation to keep up with course work, but students must communicate with faculty and adhere to the quarantine/isolation start and end dates. All other illnesses or absences for personal reasons will be handled as they were before the pandemic. Northwest further asks all students and faculty to practice good hygiene and not enter University facilities or attend face-to-face classes when they feel sick. Students who do not comply with these requirements will be subject to standard disciplinary procedures according to the Northwest Student Code of Conduct (i.e. verbal and written warnings followed by a hearing, if necessary). We thank you for doing your part to maintain our learning environment and to protect the health of fellow Bearcats.

**Change in Course Delivery:**

It is our goal as a University to continue all courses as planned on campus.  However, due to unforeseeable impacts of COVID-19 and its variants, faculty and students must be prepared to adjust course formats or mitigation strategies anytime during the semester, either permanently or for a short term. The University and faculty will communicate with students in the event such action is deemed necessary to preserve the health and safety of students and employees.

**Quarantine checklist:**

YOUR to do List:

* Call 911 if you experience difficulty breathing or a change in your level of consciousness.
* Contact Wellness Services at 660.215.8573 with questions. You may text or call between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. If you have an emergency outside of these hours, contact UPD at 660.562.1254.
* Notify all of your instructors of your absence and predicted date of return. They will assist you in your coursework by providing information on their strategies for distance learning. Please ensure that you have your laptop, notes, textbooks, and other necessary course materials when you enter into quarantine. Lack of engagement in your coursework during quarantine will likely result in lower grades or failure. When communicating with your instructors, you may provide them with the reason you cannot be in the classroom, but you are not required to do so.
* Stay away from all people.
* You must talk with a Wellness Services staff member every few days, either by phone, text, Zoom or Skype. If you develop COVID-19 symptoms, you MUST notify Wellness Services immediately. It is important for your wellbeing that Northwest maintains contact with you. We want to know you are doing okay, answer any questions you have, check for symptoms and assist with your needs.

**Behavior and Wellness:** Northwest focuses on student success—every student, every day.

The Wellness Center, 660.562.1348, offers free counseling for students coping with depression, anxiety, alcohol or drug misuse, relationships, and other emotional, social, and academic stressors. In addition, faculty, staff, and students who are concerned with student wellbeing can report their concerns, including anonymously, to the Behavioral Intervention Team, so that the student can be offered relevant support, at this link: [Concerning Behavior Reporting Form](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?NorthwestMOStateUniv&layout_id=5). If you are concerned about the immediate safety of a student, please call the University Police, who have specialized training in intervention, at 660.562.1254.

**Tentative Course Schedule**

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| **Day Topic of Class** | |
| **Week 1** | |
| 08/19 Introduction to the Course | Read Chapter One |
| **Week 2** | |
| 08/24 Communication and Culture | Read Chapter Two; Entry Ticket 1 |
| 08/26 Communication and Culture |  |
| **Week 3** | |
| 08/31 Assessing Culture | Read Chapter Six; Entry Ticket 2 |
| 09/02 Cultural Analysis for understanding |  |
| **Week 4** | |
| 09/07 Family and Intercultural Communication | Read Chapter Three; Entry Ticket 3 |
| 09/09 Family and Intercultural Communication | Presentation of Cultural Assessment |
| **Week 5** | |
| 09/14 History and Intercultural Communication | Read chapter Four; Entry Ticket 4 |
| 09/16 History cont. |  |
| **Week 6** | |
| 09/21 Religion and Intercultural Communication | Read Chapter Five; Entry Ticket 5 |
| 09/23 Religion cont. |  |
| **Week 7** | |
| 09/28 Identity and Intercultural Communication | Read Chapter Seven; Entry Ticket 6 |
| 09/30 Midterm online |  |
| **Week 8** | |
| 10/05 Presentations | Presentation of Intercultural Experience Group 1 |
| 10/07 Presentations | Presentation of Intercultural Experience Group 2 |
| **Week 9** | |
| 10/12 Verbal Communication | Read Chapter Eight; Entry Ticket 7 |
| 10/14Verbal Cont. |  |
| **Week 10** | |
| 10/19 Nonverbal Communication | Read Chapter Nine; Entry Ticket 8 |
| 10/21 Nonverbal cont. |  |
| **Week 11** | |
| 10/26 Intercultural Communication and Conflict | Read Chapter Ten; Entry Ticket 9 |
| 10/28 Intercultural Communication and Conflict cont. | Turn in movie paper |
| **Week 12** | |
| 11/02 Intercultural Communication and Pop culture | Entry Ticket 10 |
| 11/04 Intercultural Communication and Technology |  |
| **Week 13** | |
| 11/09 Intercultural Communication and Tourism |  |
| 11/11 Intercultural Communication and Relationships |  |
| **Week 14** | |
| 11/16 Work on your final paper/presentation to turn in |  |
| 11/18 Work on your final paper/presentation to turn in |  |
| **Week 15** | |
| **11/22 Thanksgiving Break NO CLASSES** |  |
| **11/24 Thanksgiving Break NO CLASSES** |  |
| **11/26 Thanksgiving Break NO CLASSES** |  |
| **Week 16** | |
| 11/30 Metaphoric Presentation |  |
| 12/02 Metaphoric Presentation |  |
| **Week 17** | |
| **12/08 Final 9:40 am – 11:40 am** |  |

**Disclaimer:** Course schedule is subject to change and you will be responsible for abiding by any such changes. Your instructor will notify you of any changes.